

SKILLED TRADES TRAINING PROGRAM: UPSKILLING EMPLOYEES FOR GROWTH

Plasan Carbon Composites – On-The-Job Training for 127 New Hires

Located in Walker, Plasan Carbon Composites (PCC) was awarded \$238,059 in 2015 to train 4 new apprentices, 76 incumbent and 127 new workers. PCC's proprietary technology and manufacturing processes have elevated the company's reputation as the premier supplier of carbon composite automotive parts. As such, PCC has been expanding at an extraordinary pace with regards to material technology, product manufacturing and new customer requests for bids. They have invested heavily in both new technology and capital investments. However, the lack of a stable workforce possessing the manufacturing skills needed has been a challenge and resulted in Plasan turning down lucrative contracts. The complexity of carbon technology designs and materials requires highly skilled individuals to train in this process.

One such individual is Shantrese Kinnon. Kinnon went to the Michigan Works! Kent, Allegan & Barry Counties service center in search of help to transition from her job as a bus driver to a new career. Kinnon's career counselor helped her create an updated resume, explored new career paths and informed her of a job fair hosted by PCC, which ultimately led to employment with the company. Today, Kinnon is employed as a Lay-Up #2 and has earned the additional responsibility of training new employees. "I always trust and depend on Michigan Works! Kent, Allegan & Barry Counties and tell people that feel lost or need to create a resume that they need to go in, because they will receive help and give guidance," stated Kinnon.



Shantrese Kinnon